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# One year with Gorbachev

Let's sip a little vodka, and toast the West's survival of the first 365 days since the rise to power of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Since Mr. Gorbachev is trying to drain vodka from Soviet society, our celebration splashes a blow against his Soviet Empire.

In his first 365 days in office, Mr. Gorbachev has proved himself Lenin's most faithful heir. Khrushchev and Brezhnev were crude, blustering peasants, Stalin a Georgian seminary student, and Andropov a superspy out of the mold of Lenin's secret police boss, Dzerzhinsky.

In contrast, Comrade Mikhail has spent 12 months proving himself the perfect Leninist — the pure New Soviet Man — the ultimate totalitarian *apparatchik*. That's just what we should expect from the first Kremlin dictator not born under the czars, but hatched whole from a Leninist egg.

Across Moscow, Soviet propaganda banners proclaim the slogan: "Lenin lived, Lenin lives, Lenin will live!" Let's see how closely Lenin lives in Mr. Gorbachev.

• Mr. Gorbachev has launched what I term the Gorbachev Doctrine — a truly Leninist face-lift for Soviet foreign policy. What is the Gorbachev Doctrine? Wherever Ronald Reagan implements the Reagan Doctrine, Mr. Gorbachev launches a counteroffensive. Wherever Mr. Reagan aids indigenous freedom fighters, Mr. Gorbachev immediately strikes back to ensure that even the smallest seed of liberty doesn't take root. The three most conspicuous examples prove this.

1. Last year, Mr. Reagan increased covert aid to the Afghan *mujahideen*. In response, Mr. Gorbachev launched a May-June offensive in the strategic Kunar Valley bordering Pakistan, hoping to seal off Afghanistan from the outside world. Mr. Gorbachev also stepped up the Red Army's scorched-earth policy, aimed at depopulating the country.

According to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, "The target is primarily the civilian population, the villages, and the agricultural structure." Genocide is a synonym for the Gorbachev Doctrine.

2. In June 1985, Mr. Reagan cajoled Congress into repealing the Clafk Amendment (which banned aid to Angolan freedom fighters), and started trickling a little covert aid to Jonas Savimbi's UNITA. Just three months later, Mr. Gorbachev launched a two-month offensive against UNITA. Soviet and Cuban fighter pilots flew MiG-21 and MiG-23 warplanes, Su-22 ground-strike fighters, and Mi-24 Hind helicopter gunships. Soviet generals coordinated attacks by Angolan Marxist and Cuban troops driving T-34, T-55, and T-62 tanks. In all, Soviet military aid totaled more than \$2 billion. Mr. Savimbi repulsed the Gorbachev offensive, but only at great cost.

3. In June 1985, Mr. Reagan coaxed from Congress \$27 million in "humanitarian" aid for the Nicaraguan "contra" freedom fighters; no military aid was included. In response, over the last six months of 1985, Mr. Gorbachev shipped to Sandinista Comandante Daniel Ortega 95 howitzers, tripling Managua's arsenal to 145; and a dozen new warplanes, running Mr. Ortega's air force inventory to 77. The shipments included two Polish Mi-2 Hoplite helicopter gunships.

Mr. Ortega feels so confident of his public relations disinformation campaign, itself a key part of the Gorbachev Doctrine, that last week he junketed to Havana. A trip to Moscow last year actually goaded Congress into passing the \$27 million aid bill. But this year, as Mr. Ortega and Cuban *junta* leader Fidel Castro presumably puffed cigars together and discussed the Gorbachev Doctrine's next offensive in the Western Hemisphere, four congressional panels voted down Mr. Reagan's new, \$100 million "contra" aid request. Lenin would have termed such congressmen useful idiots.

• Lenin insisted that "A good Communist is a good Chekist" — a member or helper of the *Cheka*, the Bolshevik secret police and the forerunner of the KGB. Following this advice, Disciple Mikhail Sergeyevich has granted the KGB more power than it has had since Lenin's time. Indeed, he has restored the KGB to its true Leninist function as

the heart and soul of the Communist Party. (Stalin had eviscerated the KGB, relegating it to a role as his personal enforcers, and keeping it loyal through periodic purges.)

At last November's Geneva summit, Mr. Gorbachev promised to tone down his anti-American smear campaign. Instead, he has boosted KGB disinformation assaults on America, and has granted the KGB complete control of all Soviet broadcasting units.

• Again like Lenin, Mr. Gorbachev has shown himself less vain than earlier Soviet dictators. Stalin had his personality cult and Brezhnev his fleet of Cadillac Eldorados. Of course, Comrade Mikhail gets "enough to eat" and "lives well," as First Deputy Prime Minister Geidar A. Aliyev said recently about the Soviet *nomenklatura*, or ruling elite. But then, the proletariat's rubles always bought Lenin "enough to eat," and let him "live well," even during his Zurich exile.

Yet for men like Lenin and Gorbachev, such things are mere comforts, not life's aim. Such men instead lust for power — which Henry Kissinger called "the ultimate aphrodisiac." Some men are consumed by the pursuit of gold or harlots, but such things pale next to the ultimate corruption: the pursuit of the kind of power delivered only by mass international terror. In 12 months, Mr. Gorbachev has shown that his goal remains that of Lenin: to run concertina wire around every square inch of the globe, and clap irons around every pair of human wrists.

• Even in his failures, Mr. Gorbachev resembles Lenin. Last November, Mr. Gorbachev couldn't schnooker Mr. Reagan into canceling the Strategic Defense Initiative, or into pulling American Pershing II and cruise missiles out of Western Europe. But after all, Lenin urged patience; one can't do everything in 12 months. And Comrade Mikhail is no Trotskyite, itching for instant world Communism!

Lenin himself implemented a strategic holding action when the Poles repulsed the Red Army in 1920, thwarting the Bolshevik attempt to conquer all of Europe. But within 24 years Poland was conquered, with the rest of Eastern Eu-

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rope thrown in as lagniappe. Over the past 12 months, Comrade Mikhail has shown he can wait 12 or 24 years, if necessary, to conquer Western Europe.

**B**ecause Mr. Reagan's term expires in less than three years, Mr. Gorbachev's experts on America have advised him to wait on arms control, if necessary, while advancing in other areas. The next American president might be a San Francisco Democrat, like Mario Cuomo or Gary Hart, who would cut America's military budget sharply. Or a moderate Republican, like George Bush or Howard Baker, who would pare the Pentagon moderately. In either case, the next American president can't possibly be a charismatic, conservative movie star — a Great Communicator II — who can rebuff the liberal-opinion monopoly's demands for arms control, yet remain popular.

In 1989, the new American president will also be hankering for a big foreign-policy success, hoping to score some points in the public opinion polls. He'll sign an arms control treaty for a song. And as to treaties, didn't Lenin once write about the Brest-Litovsk treaty: "Yes, of course, we are violating the treaty; we have violated it 30 or 40 times. . . . As every sensible man will understand, by signing this treaty we do not put a stop to our workers' revolution." Treaties are for capitalists to obey, not Communists.

- In economics, Mr. Gorbachev has displayed vaunting Leninist incompetence. The Soviet economy doesn't work. But Lenin never designed it to work. Liberal Sovietologists tell us that Mr. Gorbachev is restoring "vigor" to the economy. Yet that doesn't mean more refrigerators and Moskvich cars for the masses, but a few more tanks and bullets squeezed out for the Red Army. As Soviet agricultural boss in the late 1970s, Mr. Gorbachev almost brought on a nationwide famine. But far from exiling him to run a collective farm in Yakutsk, such disasters gave him a clear edge in the Politburo dictatorship primaries.

Obsessed with electrical power, Lenin made up this equation: Communism = socialism + electricity. Disciple Mikhail Sergeyevich has updated that Leninist mania to the 1980s, in the form of electronic technology. He fears Ronald Reagan's latest American whiz-bang gadget, Star Wars, and is rapidly building his own. One of Mr. Gorbachev's top military advisers is Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Red Army's prime technocrat and an advocate of a Soviet

first strike. And Mr. Gorbachev is painfully trying to erase the U.S.S.R.'s computer incompetence. Indeed, the Leninist equation might be updated to: Communism = socialism + microchips.

**I**n conclusion, Mr. Gorbachev has spent 12 months earning for himself the title Lenin II.

The Gorbachev Doctrine advances, enslaving or butchering a few hundred more people every day, thwarting humankind's few cries for freedom.

The KGB spreads its tentacles across the world, spreading terrorism and poisoning further the waters of public opinion.

The Red Army's arsenal grows, as prosperity and peace again lull the capitalist nations into weakness.

We have survived Mr. Gorbachev's first year — yes. But unless we awake from our slumbers and realize the danger this aggressive Leninist poses, we might not survive many more.

And that's something which, in spite of our earlier celebrations, is very sobering.

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